



BRIEFING: Licensure Fees

Goal:

To provide high-quality and cost-effective licensure service to the State's teaching professionals.

Status:

Service quality is in danger of slipping due to resource constraints, particularly with the additional strain of running the new automated licensure system.

Recommendation:

Obtain legislative authority to raise licensure fees to cover the cost of the service and the new system

Data:

- Recent projections show the fund running out of money in 2013-14 without increasing fees, getting new appropriations, or cutting additional staff
 - Note that this includes 4 positions cut in 12-13 after new system is running. Without this cut, the fund would run out of money in 12-13.
- Fee increase was introduced by Senators Hartsell, Preston, and Tillman in S576 during the 2011-12 session.
 - Passed Senate Ed/Higher Ed, passed Finance, died in Rules

Issue:

We are currently projected to run a negative balance in 2013-14 without significantly cutting staff or raising fees.

Main Points:

1. There has not been a fee increase since 1998
2. The new system will greatly enhance service provision in this area
3. Without additional funding or reducing staff, there will be insufficient funds to maintain quality licensure service